

Need to reinstate the provision of MSP on Haritaki (Hirda) crop and to address various problems being faced by tribals in Khed, Ambegaon and Junnar in Maharashtra- Laid

DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE (SHIRUR): I draw the Government attention to the severe livelihood crisis facing over 15,000 tribal families in Khed, Ambegaon, and Junnar in Maharashtra, who depend on the internationally valued Haritaki (Hirda) crop. Their economic distress stems from five critical, unaddressed issues. Foremost is the exploitation by traders due to the discontinuation of the governments MSP scheme. The current procurement price of ₹80₹100 per kg is drastically below the labor cost, yielding zero profit. I urge the immediate reinstatement of MSP at a minimum of ₹200₹250 per kg to ensure fair wages. Secondly, these families receive no compensation for crop loss, as Hirda is wrongly classified as forest produce. Policy must be revised to grant them relief akin to agricultural farmers. Thirdly, the hazardous collection process lacks basic safety. I demand the provision of safety equipment and a robust insurance scheme to protect collectors from fatal accidents. Finally, long-term sustainability requires action on two fronts: promoting local processing units for value addition and launching a serious, effective reforestation program to secure future supplies. I appeal to the Ministries concerned to take swift, policy-level action on these five urgent points to safeguard the economic backbone and dignity of the tribal communities.